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### How Space Affects Perception in St. Louis

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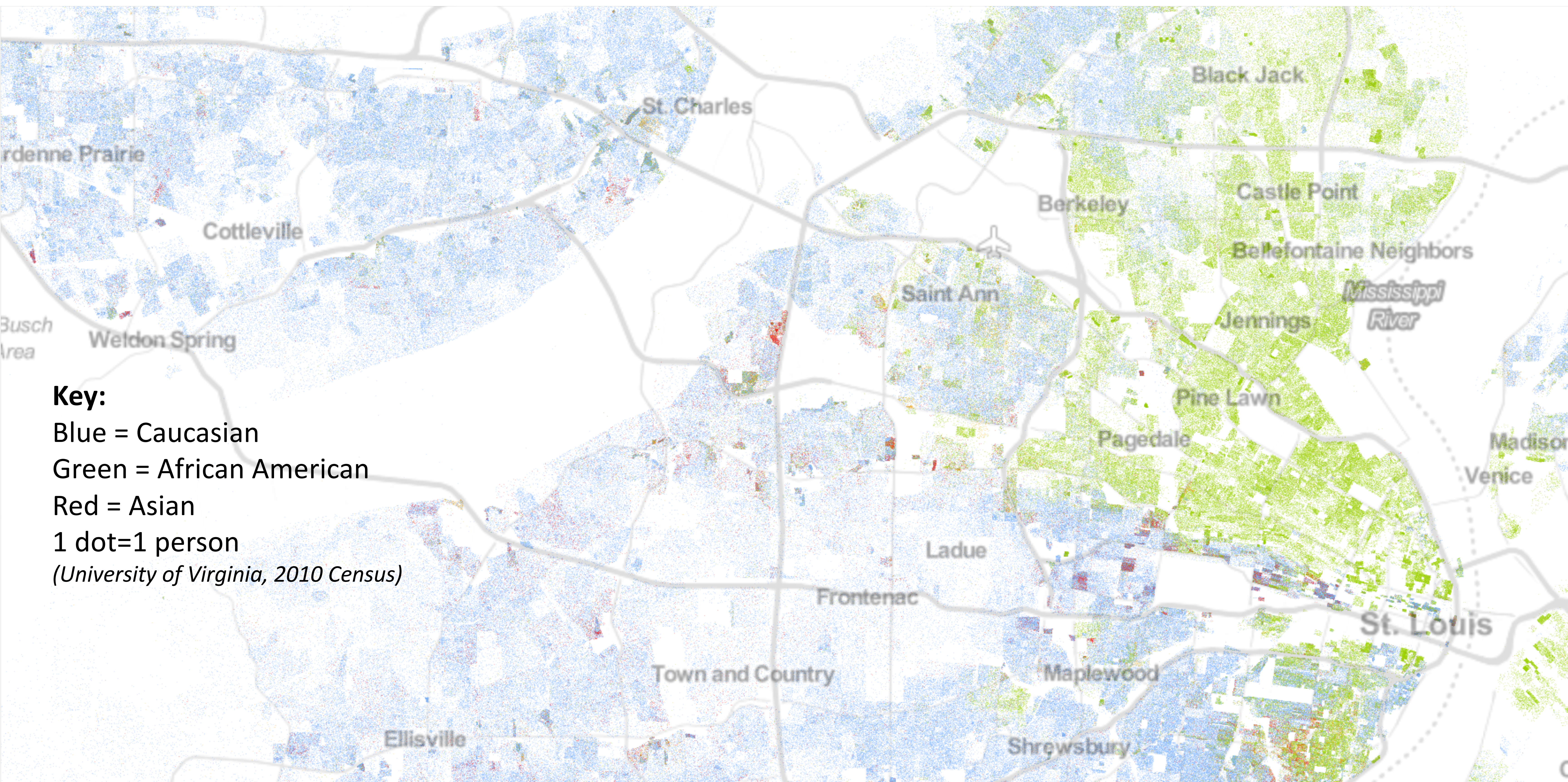




# How Space Affects Perception in St. Louis

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Developing  
Scholars  
Program



## Question

How does space and “raced space” affect self perception?

In this context, we define **space** as the **distance** from other people/things that make people feel **comfortable**.

## Areas Observed

- West County/St. Charles/Chesterfield (WSC)
- Florissant/Hazelwood/Ferguson (FHF)
- St. Louis Inner City

## Findings

- Present-Day Segregation
- Community vs. Resources
- Amount of resources impact
- The community “likes where they are”
- Education gaps between areas studied

### WSC

- More easily accessed and amount of resources

### FHF

- Slow decline
- Fewer mental health resources
- Increasing violence

### Inner City

- Inner city desert
- Least mental health resources
- Desire to ‘get out’

## Auto-ethnography

- First hand Ferguson accounts (THUG)
- “This is one boujee store. I don’t feel comfortable in it” (West County)
- Fully suited security (West County) vs black t-shirt and tennis shoes (Inner City)
- “More of a *take in* environment than a *take out* environment” (West Count Vs Other)
- Feeling out of place in shopping stores (West County)
- Distance to access fine dining

Methods

=

Primary  
Research

+

Secondary  
Research

+

Auto -  
ethnography

## Conclusion

Raced space, as we defined it, effects self perception in terms of how someone perceives themselves, the people within their space and the people outside their space. It was found in this research that space subconsciously effects how someone sees their space and the people outside their space.

Future work might investigate the specific triggers that a space can subconsciously create for its residents. Potential questions concern identifying any space associated triggers (if any), length of existence, and the ways space has encouraged or influenced the trigger (if any).

## Study Improvements

Seek a more diverse group of participants

## Contact

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